



American Planning Association  
**Oregon Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

February 26, 2025

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

**Re: SB 5529**

Position: Support

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of SB 5529, on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

An OAPA legislative and policy priority is to protect and support Oregon's Planning Program to help ensure cities and counties comprehensively plan for today and future generations to support healthy, equitable, and thriving communities. The Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) is a critical element of the Oregon Planning Program. It is essential that LUBA has the funding and technical resources needed to support good planning.

LUBA's role in the Planning Program is to expeditiously resolve land use planning and development decision disputes and to publish its decisions as a resource for state and local legislators, land use professionals, city and county land use decision makers, property owners, and residents of Oregon. OAPA membership, as both public and private planning professionals, are impacted, directly or indirectly, by

the work of LUBA as it ensures that land use decisions are consistent with applicable state and local land use planning legislation.

OAPA appreciates how consistently LUBA meets its goals that include to have a simplified appeal process that is fast and efficient; to thoroughly resolve the appeal issues; to “get it right” the first time with a record of opinions sustained on judicial review; and to provide quick and easy access to issued decisions. It is important that LUBA be supported to continue meeting its mission and goals as State and local governments address land use planning on the pressing issues of housing, climate, transportation and equitable outcomes among others.

OAPA supports the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB). The GRB provides the funding needed to maintain its current service level and, as well, needed POP additions. OAPA strongly supports POP 500 which is to modernize LUBA’s technology system. It would provide for an online filing system similar to what is used in state appellate courts. LUBA would have a more streamlined use of communications for its filings and administrative records. These changes will enable the board to fulfill its obligations to decide cases in a timely way at a lower cost to the agency and the parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on SB 5529.

Sincerely,



**Jonathan Harker**

Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee

Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

[www.oregonapa.org](http://www.oregonapa.org)